



## Coastal Policy Team

### Meeting Summary

September 16, 2021

1:00pm – 4:30pm

**Welcome and Introductions:** (*Laura McKay, CZM*)

Laura welcomed the CPT membership and asked that they email April with any changes to representatives or alternates. The meeting was recorded only for CZM note-taking purposes.

**Update on Lower Chickahominy FY2016-2020 Sect. 309 Strategy:** (*Jeff Flood, CZM & Sarah Stewart, PlanRVA*)

Jeff gave a brief overview of the 5-year project accomplishments; including the signing of a MOU to establish a Watershed Collaborative among the 3 Tribes, 3 local governments, and 2 PDC's in the region (New Kent County is anticipated to be the final signatory after their October board meeting). In early September, the Watershed Steering Committee (comprised of signatories) met to reach consensus on additional priorities and establish workgroups to address each. Sarah added that PlanRVA has developed an inventory of public access infrastructure in the region to assist in the project goals of growing a sustainable ecotourism industry. CPT members are welcome to contact Jeff and Laura about participating in the Collaborative going forward. FY18 CZM funds have been used to create a list of potential sites in the watershed for which interpretive signage could be created in future years, especially in collaboration with the Chickahominy Tribe at the Mamanahunt site (recently gifted to the Tribe by the General Assembly. [The CZM background PPT can be found here.](#)

**Update on Coastal Resilience Master Plan:** (*Adm. Ann Phillips, Office of the SNHR*)

Adm. Phillips stated that the Commonwealth is now putting together the first phase of the plan, which is due in November and will be announced by the Governor in December. Stormwater management has been noted by many stakeholders as a critical issue to be addressed. The third round of funding through the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) will include revolving loan capacity. The September 8th Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auction added \$23 million in addition to the \$40 million already received. There will be a fourth RGGI auction before the end of the 2021 calendar year.

**Update on FY2020 Sect. 309 Project of Special Merit on Bay Act Regulation Amendments:**

*Justin Williams of DEQ, Pam Mason of VIMS, and Dr. Elizabeth Andrews of VCPC* provided updates on the DEQ regulatory process and the associated yet distinct PSM project:

- Justin reviewed the CBPA amendments ([presentation link](#)) and noted that localities have 3 years to adopt changes to their programs
- Pam presented the VIMS modeling results to date ([presentation link](#))
- Elizabeth described the process that will be used to develop guidance
- *Discussion Highlights:* Justin stated that Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) would have two public meetings (October and over the winter) and that stakeholders

beyond the SAG should contact him regarding their input. Ben McFarlane (HRPDC) noted that the CZM contract included three meetings; Justin replied that several meetings had already been held in developing the regulations. Ben also noted that the same members would be on the SAG for both regulatory amendments and guidance development, but that issues were somewhat different; Justin replied that there would be opportunities for public input beyond the SAG members; Pam noted that members of the VIMS technical advisory group would also be invited to participate.

**New Tidal Wetlands Guidelines:** (*Rachael Peabody, VMRC*)

- An issue was raised about the difficulty in responding to questions in some grant applications about how much of a project is considered a living shoreline when VMRC's permit does not contain this level of detail.
- VMRC agreed to look into the issue with respect to how information is entered into their database.
- [Rachael's PPT can be found here.](#)

**Resilience Academy:** (*Elizabeth Andrews, VCPC*)

Agencies responded to a question from Elizabeth about resilience training or education efforts currently underway and what training/education they needed.

- DWR is working with Coastal/Marine Policy Fellows to gauge policy readiness on climate change and will train DWR staff on this.
- CBNERRVA developed priorities for Climate Change and Coastal Resilience for training for their focus group to consider.
- DCR is working with FEMA on the impact of Climate Change on flooding and NFIP across the Commonwealth. The trainings are looking at equity and flooding for state agencies, then for local governments. DCR is involved in Virginia Flood Awareness Week and Virtual Roundtable Discussion:  
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/floodawarenessweek/roundtable>
- HRPDC is developing resilience policies that will be recommended for its localities. The trainings will be held for the local governments. Outreach on flood insurance is also being conducted.
- VDH has a Climate Change committee led by [Brenden.Rivenbark@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Brenden.Rivenbark@vdh.virginia.gov).
- VDEM is supporting development of BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) and Flood Mitigation Assistance FEMA grants

There was a discussion about the difficulty of targeting grant money for underserved/low income communities. Some grants include language about underserved "communities," but there is typically no definition of the geographic extent of this term and data may not be available to identify areas at an appropriate scale.

*Action Item: CZM will set up a call to discuss how to address this issue. Ben McFarlane, Gray Montrose, Angela Davis, Ann Phillips, Corey Miles, John Bateman, Pam Mason, and Cirse Gonzalez are all interested in participating.*

**New FY2021-2025 Sec. 309 Strategies:** (*Shep Moon & Laura McKay, CZM*)

Shep and Laura provided brief overviews of the upcoming strategies:

- [Coastal Hazards](#): Shep presented three FY 21 Section 309 Coastal Hazards grants that will start on Oct 1, 2021
  1. W&M/CPC: Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT) – MPPDC implementation and Crater/PlanRVA evaluation in progress.

2. Wetlands Watch: Community Rating System (CRS) – Support for the CRS Workgroup, community training and evaluations, and integration into RAFT evaluations
3. W&M/CPC: Resilient Enforceable Policies – beginning by defining resilience and reviewing DEQ progress; Presentation and feedback at the Coastal Partners Workshop

No 309 Next Generation Shoreline Management grant in FY 21, but a 306 pilot project on the Middle Peninsula and discussion of next steps at the Coastal Partners Workshop

- [Marine Debris](#): Laura noted the current Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan is in the process of being updated to better align with the Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Reduction Plan and MARCO efforts on the issue. Intentional balloon releases were banned by the General Assembly effective July 1, 2021. CZM is working with Clean Virginia Waterways (CVW) to build public awareness through the Virginia Plastic Pollution Prevention Network, Litter Free Virginia, and the Virginia Abandoned & Derelict Vessels Workgroup. Jeff is co-facilitating the latter effort with CVW. Laura is leading an effort with conserved land owners, state and federal agencies and shellfish growers to develop a strategy for addressing derelict clam nets. This next marine debris 309 strategy is being funded at a substantially higher level all of which will be awarded to CVW to continue to develop enforceable policies as well as implement the updated Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan.
- [Ocean Resources](#): Laura noted that the MARCO Ocean Data Portal has continued to grow with over 6,000 data layers now available to help in developing a Virginia Ocean Plan. The plan will aim to address the multitude of human uses and ocean resources off Virginia's coast including offshore wind, fishing, recreation, shipping, military operations, ocean wildlife and habitats, etc. A kickoff meeting for relevant state agencies, contractors and academics is for October 21 to discuss the preliminary ideas for the Ocean Plan. Year one includes 4 grants:
  1. W&M/CPC: Development of VA Ocean Plan Policies
  2. VCU: Stakeholder Engagement
  3. DWR/VA Aquarium: Integration of Marine Mammal/Sea Turtle Conservation
  4. MARC:: Liaison with Regional Ocean Planning Efforts

#### **Coastal GEMS Updates:** (*Nick Meade, CZM*)

Version 4.0 (<http://www.coastalgems.org/>) features a new landing page with story maps, data library, and new interactive map tools and layer filters. Nick invited the CPT to contact him for customized training if desired.

#### **CBNERR Coastal Training Program:** (*Cirse Gonzalez, CBNERRVA*)

Cirse gave an overview of the Program, including several examples [https://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/coastal\\_training/ctp-at-a-glance/index.php](https://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/coastal_training/ctp-at-a-glance/index.php) and invited coastal stakeholders to schedule a time to meet virtually [https://calendly.com/event\\_types/user/me](https://calendly.com/event_types/user/me). Cirse also asked the attendees to fill out the following surveys: <https://PollEv.com/surveys/gxwzQ09wGs3co5AEgyHDL/respond> [https://jamboard.google.com/d/1uxP\\_YeBoEt2XMwaj7\\_LOGki3TUn2A0hJ7sl5WgwQZE/edit?usp=sharing](https://jamboard.google.com/d/1uxP_YeBoEt2XMwaj7_LOGki3TUn2A0hJ7sl5WgwQZE/edit?usp=sharing) [Cirse's PPT can be found here.](#)

### **November 2021 Coastal Partners Workshop: (Laura McKay, CZM)**

Laura gave a brief overview of the dates and topics associated with the event:

- Theme: Virginia's Coastal and Ocean Future: A Turning Point for Collaborating to Address Complex Changes
- Tuesday Nov 16, 1 – 4:30pm: Coastal Resilience
- Wednesday Nov 17, 1 - 4:30pm: Land Conservation & Ocean Planning
- Thursday Nov 18, 1 – 4:30pm: Coastal Communities & Economy; final session on ideas for next focal area for October 2023 – Sep 2026

### **Updates from NOAA: (John Kuriawa, NOAA Office for Coastal Management)**

John gave updates on several topics, including potential Federal funding and new technical trainings available through NOAA's Digital Coast. [A copy of John's written summary is available here](#). Highlights included:

- Presidential budget contains small to moderate funding increases for CZM and NERR programs nation-wide, but Infrastructure bill contains much larger funding amounts for these programs plus National Coastal Resilience fund, USDA, USACE, NFWF, others. Focus on restoration projects and land acquisition, notably CELCP. Office for Coastal Management might also see a significant increase and more staff would be required.
- Trainings focused on resilience planning and economic valuation for projects.
- Increased funding for regional ocean planning.

### **Guidance on Web accessibility, Progress Reports, and Proposal Guidance for FY22: (April Bahen and Laura McKay, CZM)**

- FY21 grants that result in tools or products need to be vetted with end users at the beginning of the grant to ensure usability by the end users.
- Grantees need to start early when obtaining their Indirect Cost Rate Approval letters from VDOT (if they are your cognizant agency). The VDOT Indirect Cost Rate approval letter does not overlap with CZM grant proposal due dates to NOAA.
- CZM realizes the Indirect Cost Rate will be behind a year when the project actually starts in October. But we still need the most current approved rate to be used when submitting the proposal to VA CZM in February since CZM cannot predict what the future rate will be when the project actually starts in October.
- [April's PPT can be found here](#).

### **Update on Virginia Sea Grant's "GO Virginia" Project: (Scott Sandridge, VASG)**

Scott provided a brief overview, including the following highlights:

- The project focuses on coastal rural protection of buildings and property, as well as flood management
- The competition announcement is being finalized now
- Jan 10, 2022 – Submissions due
- Jan 24 – Finalists chosen
- March – Projects announced
- April – Project implementation begins
- For more information, please contact [sasandridge@vaseagrant.org](mailto:sasandridge@vaseagrant.org) or [thartley@vaseagrant.org](mailto:thartley@vaseagrant.org)

### **Agency Updates:**

- **HRPDC:** Ben McFarlane will be submitting a FY22 Section 309 Project of Special Merit. A proposal is due to CZM Nov 3 and to NOAA Dec 3, 2021. It will focus on updating data and mapping tools for local and regional area planning in light of

climate change. HRPDC will also install 20 roadway flooding sensors and make the data available to the public.

- **DCR:** – 41 acres were just added to the Bush Mill Stream Natural Area Preserve in Northumberland County, increasing the area to 144 acres.
- **NNPDC** is in the process of updating their new website content, including their Public Access Authority page.
- **VDH:** A virtual meeting of the Wastewater Infrastructure Workgroup is scheduled for 9/22/21 (<https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/Viewmeeting.cfm?meetingid=32916>)

**\*\*At approximately 4:30pm the meeting was adjourned\*\***

### **Attendee List**

Elizabeth Andrews – VCPC  
April Bahen – CZM  
John Bateman – NNPDC  
Sharon Baxter – DEQ  
Steve Begg – VDOT  
Alec Brebner – Crater PDC  
Brandy Buford – DCR  
Andrew Button – VMRC  
Keith Cannady - HRPDC  
Angela Davis – DCR  
John Fisher – DEQ  
Jeff Flood – CZM  
Lewis Gillingham - VMRC  
Cirse Gonzalez – CBNERRVA  
Lance Gregory – VDH  
Joseph Grist - DEQ  
Becky Gwynn – DWR  
Todd Janeski – DCR/VCU  
Ken Jurman – DMME  
John Kuriawa – NOAA  
Terry Lasher – VDOF  
Lewie Lawrence – MPPDC  
Mark Luckenbach – VIMS  
Amy Martin - DWR  
Pam Mason – VIMS  
Ben McFarlane – HRPDC

Laura McKay – CZM  
Nick Meade – CZM  
Debbie Messmer - VDEM  
Corey Miles – NVRC  
Gray Montrose – VCPC  
Shep Moon – CZM  
David Norris - DWR  
Rachael Peabody - VMRC  
Luke Peters – Berkley Group  
Adm. Ann Phillips – SNHR  
Meghann Quinn - DEQ  
Willy Reay - CBNERRVA  
Ann Regn - DEQ  
Jesse Reiblich – VCPC  
Jay Ruffa – Crater PDC  
Scott Sandridge – VA Sea Grant  
Danielle Schools  
Curt Smith - MPPDC  
David Spears - DMME  
Jessica Steelman – A-NPDC  
Sarah Stewart - PlanRVA  
Carl Thiel-Goin - DCR  
Lyle Varnell - VIMS  
Joe Weber - DCR  
Drew Williams – Berkley Group  
Virginia Witmer – CZM